natural mineral water produced as per existing Indian standards are safe for human consumption.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. BIS through its Scheme of Testing and Inspection and Surveillance Inspections ensures that its licensees are manufacturing Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water as per the specifications stipulated in the relevant Indian Standards.

Excess foodgrains in godowns

951. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 333.14 lakh tonnes against the prescribed minimum buffer norms of 181 lakh tonnes of foodgrains are still lying excess in various godowns across the country; and

(b) if so, what were the alternative storage facilities arranged for the proper storage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The stock of foodgrains as on 1.1.2003 was 482 lakh tonnes which was in excess of the buffer norms.

(b) Adequate capacity is available for scientific storage of foodgrains.

Labourers in FCI

952. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the casual labourers working in Food Corporation of India as on date, State-wise;

(b) the wage structure of these workers; and

(c) the number of workers inducted under the Direct Payment System, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) 121 casual labourers have been engaged directly, by the Food Corporation of India for the foodgrains handling operations in its depots in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The casual labourers are paid the wages as prescribed by the local District Collector/District Magistrate.

(c) The, State-wise, details where workers have been inducted under the Direct Payment System in the Food Corporation of India is given below:

State	Total No. of DPS Workers (Prov.)
Delhi	299
J and K	714
Punjab	16234
Uttar Pradesh	2579
Uttaranchal	422
Bihar	167
Jharkhand	184
Orissa	652
West Bengal	2166
Assam	1025
North East Frontier Region	59
Gujarat	126
Maharashtra	631
Madhya Pradesh	822
Chhattisgarh	1021
Andhra Pradesh	3234
Kerala	2650
Karnataka	789
Tamil Nadu	1961

Supply of rice for PDS in AP

953. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether fair price shops failed to get adequate rice with the result public distribution got affected during December, 2002 and January, 2003 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount of rice released by the Centre for distribution through PDS;

(c) the reasons for not supplying adequate rice to the PDS in the State;

(d) whether Government have considered to increase the quota fixed for the State during January, 2003; and